16

Claims

- 1. Data communication system (1) having a plurality of computers (5, 15a, 25) and an administrative computer (31)
- 5 characterized in that
 prior to the updating of software stored on one of the computers
 (5, 15a, 25) or, as the case may be, on a storage device (8, 18,
 28) assigned thereto, data indicating which transmission medium
 is to be used for exchanging data used for updating or, as the
 10 case may be, for controlling the updating process is exchanged
- between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the administrative computer (31).
- 2. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 1
 15 characterized in that the data indicating which transmission medium is to be used for exchanging data used for updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating process is exchanged over a predeter-

mined transmission medium which can differ from the transmission

- 20 medium indicated.
- Data communication system (1) according to Claim 2
 characterized in that
 the predetermined transmission medium is a telephone connection
 set up between the administrative computer (31) and the respective computer (5, 15a, 25).
 - 4. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preceding Claims
- 30 characterized in that the indicated transmission medium can be an internet connection.
 - 5. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 4 characterized in that
- the indicated transmission medium can be a fixed internet connection and in that the IP address assigned to the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) is a fixed IP address permanently assigned to the respective computer (5, 15a, 25).

17

- 6. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 4 characterized in that the indicated transmission medium can be a temporary internet connection and in that the IP address assigned to the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) is a temporary IP address not permanently assigned to the respective computer (5, 15a, 25).
- 7. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preceding Claims

 characterized in that the indicated transmission medium can be a telephone connection.
- 8. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preceding Claims
 characterized in that
 it is ascertained by the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) which
 transmission medium is to be used for exchanging data used for
 updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating
 process.
 - 9. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preceding Claims

characterized in that

- an additional computer (4), in particular a server computer, is provided, with at least one file required for updating the data being stored on said additional computer (4) or, as the case may be, on a storage device (34) assigned thereto.
- 30 10. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 9 characterized in that the additional computer (4) is a TFTP server computer or a web server computer.
- 35 11. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preceding Claims characterized in that

software-updating control data is exchanged between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the administrative computer (31) over the predetermined or indicated transmission medium.

- 5 12. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 11 characterized in that the software-updating control data indicates the precise time at which updating is to be performed.
- 13. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 11 or 12 characterized in that the software-updating control data indicates a call identification, in particular a telephone number or IP address or, as the case may be, URL address, assigned to the additional computer (4).
 - $14.\ \mathrm{Data}\ \mathrm{communication}\ \mathrm{system}\ (1)\ \mathrm{according}\ \mathrm{to}\ \mathrm{one}\ \mathrm{of}\ \mathrm{Claims}\ 11$ to 13

characterized in that

- it is conveyed with the aid of the software-updating control data which transmission medium is to be used for exchanging data between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the additional computer (4).
- 25 15. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 9 to 14

characterized in that

the transmission medium used for exchanging data between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the additional computer (4)

- 30 corresponds to the transmission medium indicated for exchanging data used for updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating process.
- 16. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 9 to 35

characterized in that

the transmission medium used for exchanging data between the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and the additional computer (4) is

19

ascertained separately by the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) and can differ from the transmission medium indicated for exchanging data used for updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating process.

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- 17. Data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 9 to 16
- characterized in that

the file which is required for updating the data and stored on

- the additional computer (4) or, as the case may be, on the storage device (34) assigned thereto is transmitted to the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) over the indicated or, as the case may be, separately ascertained transmission medium.
- 15 18. Data communication system (1) according to one of the preceding Claims

characterized in that the computer (5, 15a, 25) is a telecommunication system.

- 20 19. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 18 characterized in that the data requiring to be updated is communication-control software.
- 25 20. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 18 or 19 characterized in that the computer (5, 15a, 25) is part of a data network (A, B, C) and functions as a central computer (5, 15a, 25) for the data network (A, B, C).

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- 21. Data communication system (1) according to Claim 20 characterized in that the data network (A, B, C) is connected to at least one further data network (A, B, C) so that an aggregate network is formed,
- and in that the respective computer (5, 15a, 25) initiates updating of data stored on a computer (5a, 5b) of the further data network (A, B, C) or, as the case may be, on a storage device (8a, 8b) assigned thereto.

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- 22. Computer (5, 15a, 25) embodied and set up in such a way that it can be used as a computer (5, 15a, 25) in a data communication system (1) according to one of Claims 1 to 25 and embodied and set up in such a way that it ascertains which transmission medium is to be used for exchanging the data used for updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating process.
- 23. Method for updating software stored on a computer (5, 15a, 25) of a data communication system (1) or, as the case may be, on a storage device (8, 18, 28) assigned thereto, with the data communication system (1) additionally having an administrative computer (31)

characterized in that

(31).

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prior to the updating of the software stored on the computer (5, 15a, 25) or, as the case may be, on the storage device (8, 18, 28) assigned thereto, data indicating which transmission medium is to be used for exchanging data used for updating or, as the case may be, for controlling the updating process is exchanged between the computer (5, 15a, 25) and the administrative computer